City of Lafayette Staff Report

For:	City Council
By:	Tony Coe, Engineering Services Manager
Date Written:	January 22, 2008
Meeting Date:	January 28, 2008
Subject:	Temporary Parking Restriction on Golden Gate Way

Introduction

The City Council recently received a staff report regarding parking conditions on Golden Gate Way in the vicinity of the Lafayette Library construction project. Subsequently, the Council directed staff to meet with interested area merchants and property owners to reassess options to address their concerns for potential inappropriate parking use by construction workers associated with the library project. Based on these meetings, staff recommends that the City Council consider adopting a temporary restriction to prohibit parking on the south side of Golden Gate Way roughly between 3467 (Nifty Thrifty Store) and Second Street. The prohibition would be from 6 a.m. to 8 a.m., weekdays, for the duration of the construction project.

Discussion

Subsequent to the last City Council meeting on December 14, staff spoke with the two members of the public who attended the meeting. Ms. Jeanne Stewart, whose business is west of First Street, appears to be interested in some action for area employee parking as a long-term solution. Staff has committed to send her the Commuter Guide that we will soon distribute in partnership with the Chamber of Commerce. Staff also informed her of the on-going Downtown Strategy effort, which will incorporate downtown parking issues. Mr. Robert Gray, the author of the original complaint to the Council, clarified that he has no personal stake in the matter. Mr. Gray owns a large off-street parking lot to serve his needs, and he is only approaching the City with the parking issue based on feedback from his neighbors.

The area most affected appears to be the eight spaces on the south side of Golden Gate Way fronting the Nifty Thrift and Coral Pool stores, immediately west of Second Street. These spaces are currently unregulated. Staff met with representatives of both businesses to hear their concerns. As outlined in staff's previous report to the City Council, there had been on-going complaints with how on-street parking is utilized, and by whom, in this area of Golden Gate Way preceding the commencement of the library construction. Notwithstanding feelings by some that the situation has reached some "happy equilibrium," staff's recent conversation with others in the area confirmed that some issues remain. While long-term solutions have

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been heretofore not obvious and lacking consensus support, there appears to be agreement that some temporary measures in the subject area may address the immediate concerns.

Based on the feedback that staff has received, we are recommending three actions:

1. A "No Parking" restriction should be established on the south side of Golden Gate Way, between 3467 and Second Street, effective on weekdays between 6 a.m. and 8 a.m. This measure affects eight spaces and is strictly targeting the potential inappropriate parking by construction workers, and would be in place only for the duration of the construction project. Since workers typically arrive before 7:30 a.m., this time restriction should succeed in keeping them from monopolizing the spaces that are *intended* for patrons of area businesses. The remaining spaces on the south side of the street to the west already have time restrictions ranging from 15 minutes to two hours. Staff has confirmed with Police Chief Hubbard that existing parking enforcement staff can make the enforcement of this new restriction a priority.

2. Staff will reiterate our request to the general contractor to consider allowing parking by construction workers on the completed garage decks of the library building. Staff acknowledged to the Council that given the need to stage materials, equipment, and access for construction, the contractor is somewhat limited. Staff will pursue this action when we see that the opportunity presents itself.

3. When the Commuter Guide is ready for distribution, staff will forward copies to the project construction workers. In addition to identifying parking options that limit impacts on merchants, the guide also includes alternative commute options of which workers may not be currently aware. Even a small number of workers diverted to park in appropriate locations or to consider alternative commute modes could have a positive effect on the on-street parking situation.

Fiscal Impact

The cost for installation of "No Parking" signs and their eventual removal should be less than $1,000, and could be absorbed by the existing Traffic Maintenance budget (Department 011-320). The cost to develop and distribute the Commuter Guide is already funded by a transportation demand management grant.

Recommendation

1. City Council should adopt a temporary "No Parking" restriction for the remaining duration of the library construction project, to be effective between 6 a.m. and 8 a.m., weekdays, on the south side of Golden Gate Way between 3467 and Second Street.

2. City Council should authorize staff to proceed with additional measures as presented to alleviate concerns regarding construction worker parking.